

## **Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum**

### **Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 9th October 2023 @7.30pm in Stirchley Community Church**

**Present:** 22 including; Vice Chair (SC), Treasurer (PA), members of the Forum's management committee

Sandra Cooper (Vice Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. She explained that Rob Morris was unable to attend due to having had an accident. Everyone sent their good wishes.

#### **1. Apologies**

Mary Locke, Rob Morris, Karen Cheney, Rachel West, Susan MacLean

#### **2. Minutes of meeting Monday 11th September**

Minutes approved as accurate record.

#### **3. Matters arising from previous meeting**

##### **3.1 Tricas updates:**

SC asked Susan MacLean for any updates - nothing to note so far.

Pavement signage near site changed just before September meeting.

3.2 Update on the name of Stirchley Cooperative Development - name Sutton Place has been passed on to SCD team. Sutton Place was name on previous houses.

3.3 Committee to follow up with Lee Hands from Tricas on back to backs

3.4 Police update has now been renamed 'Crime & Anti Social Behaviour'

#### **4. Crime & Anti Social Behaviour**

4.1 It was once again noted that WM Police were not present.

4.2 Next police tasking meeting is 18th October at 2pm at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Hall.

It was noted that people who attended from Stirchley felt that Bournville people took over the meeting. SC noted they have become more receptive.

Police initially said they went to Cotteridge because there was no room hire fee - this confused the committee.

If someone can go from Stirchley, it would be appreciated.

4.4 At previous meeting Cllr Locke mentioned issues on Ivy Rd, but no one from road has come to Forum meeting. But there have been problems with new builds that have become a 'hostel'. The issues have purportedly started to happen further afield and have been brought into Stirchley.

***Cllr Locke has asked anyone with evidence to contact Crime Stoppers or Cllr Locke who will contact the council.***

4.5 It was asked if we were given statistics from police etc - SC noted that the statistics were not in line with what was expected. They may also be looped together with other area stats.

4.6 On social media there have been reports of attempted thefts by the Morrisons cash point. It's been asked before to have an inside cash point in Morrisons, but discussions didn't get anywhere.

PA said it would be nice to have a 'Banking Hub'. These often happen near post offices - which we also don't have. The question was posed, could there be research into if this was possible in the future?

4.7 On social media there has also been a report of alleged attempted car theft during the day time where people tried the handle of a car.

4.8 If anyone has any thoughts on how to engage police, let Forum know.

4.9 There are people at the back of supermarkets asking for any spare change. It was noted they are not specifically aggressive.

It was further noted, just because someone is begging doesn't mean that they are homeless, they can have a home and still struggle.

***If you suspect that someone may be rough sleeping, you can contact Street Link. You can report incidents of suspected rough sleeping with the location of where people are who may need help.***

## **5. Planning issues**

SC (Planning Officer) updated the meeting

Update from July meeting

***Fordhouse Lane Car Park*** - rejected and enforcement officers aware that it's already being used as a car park.

***1189 Pershore Rd***: Technically not in Stirchley, but has had application rejected to add decking outside shop.

**Corner of Twyning Rd:** 3rd application awaiting. It has been heard there are over 20 objections.

## 6. Networking

6.1 Road closed down by River Rea at Pebble Mill Fields, closure will be closed for 4-5 weeks. Closed until 10th November, this is different from the original plan.

There are significant bike tracks in the nearby playing field due to diversions. They may need to be replanted.

It was noted the works made a big mess, but have discovered some interesting pieces of concrete.

There is a map in the library of the Mills of The Rea.

6.2 SC attended a short course about assets of community value.

You can register an asset for being "of community value" and doesn't mean to be council owned.

Doesn't give anyone first refusal to buy, it just gives a "pause" for decision making in whether or not it should be.

Request must come from constituted organisation or 21 signatures of individuals.

Must have social value to the community. It will be listed for 5 years and then someone has to reapply.

Must have been in use within the past 5 years.

It was noted biodiversity doesn't fit into the remit. Newts are not a reason, but if people are tending to the land then it counts.

Locally there are applications in Hazewell allotments, Stirchley library and the baths that we know of.

Pete Walker used to use the offices at the constituency office for Christmas, but probably longer than 5 years ago.

People in city taking a lead - Karen Cheney and Rachel West. One will hopefully come and chat.

You can register an interest for Community Asset Transfer, but we don't know if how this will work in the future with the guidance from the council.

CAT process tried with the baths and it ultimately didn't end well.

Karen Cheney and Rachel West to be invited to the December meeting. PA to invite Claire Hardwick to talk about Neighbourhood Planning.

NP can happen across ward boundaries.

AOB:

PA crime - West Midlands Now alert service sent out a survey recently. PA noted to them that police do not attend meetings.

Next month AGM

SC reminded people are needed to help run the Forum. People who can help on the evening or on the committee.

SC thinks we need flyers to put through new housing developments.

**The meeting closed at 20:45**

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1. The Management Committee does not normally have prior knowledge of items which will be raised as Any Other Business, but the Management Committee will help facilitate such items where it does have prior knowledge, and which are in the interests of Stirchley.
2. The Forum is not aligned to any political party or one group and hence will hold a neutral stance in all political items which are raised at the meetings; the Forum may take a stance (positive/negative) on planning applications discussed at the meeting or on changes to community/neighbourhood services which affect the Forum area
3. The Forum's Management Committee will not allow a person or organisation to use the Forum's meeting as a means to any political end.
4. All residents and businesses within the Forum's area have the right to attend and speak at the meeting. Business owners, not resident within the forum area, have a right to attend and speak at SNF meetings, but they cannot make up quorum.

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